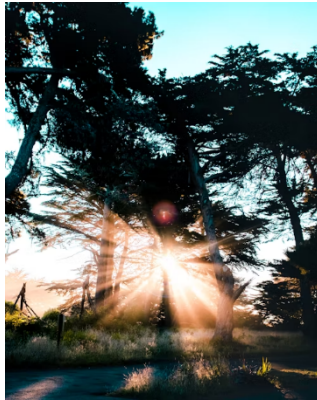


Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, April 5, 2026
The Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday
Liturgical Color: White
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

Visit the church website: www.wpctiburon.org, 415-383-5272
240 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California 94920

This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Opening Blessing

We pause in gratitude, praying for presence, seeking greater wisdom, rejoicing in miracle, committing to love. Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed.**

Community Prayer

We have felt your presence, even if we haven't named it as such, O God. We have experienced a love or a goodness in this world that gives us strength in the hardest of times. We may have been overcome by acceptance, generosity, or a feeling of total oneness. Forgive us when we have put our trust in what puts down, for we are here to celebrate what rises up. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

That Feeling: Miracles 6

Robert McClellan

Let's face it, even though it is famously a time when a lot of visitors are at church, Easter can be a strange time to visit a church. We tell this miracle story of someone being raised from the dead and ask people to believe. The Easter miracle, however, is the perfect capstone to our series on miracles--accounts that are hard to believe. As New Testament scholar Luke Timothy Johnson, our companion for this journey through the miracles, puts it, it's not that the stories of Jesus give rise to the experience of God. Rather, more often it's mysterious experience of God, spirit, love, truth, accompaniment, hope, joy, awe, wonder...that give rise to the crafting of narratives that tell stories of wonder. Those are the only types of stories that can capture "that feeling" we get but can't adequately describe. Today we embrace faith as giving form and community to that feeling we get in hope of doing something beautiful and good with it.

Scripture(s)

First Reading

John 20:1-18

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

6b Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Hymns

Jesus Christ is Risen Today 232

Christ the Lord is Risen Today 245

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

“It is the greatest and most fundamental miracle, on which all other claims to God’s power and presence among believers are based--not only in the past, but also in the present, for the resurrection, properly understood, is as real and existential a reality today as it was on that first Easter Sunday.”

-Luke Timothy Johnson

1. Reflect - Was your faith born of instruction or experience?
2. Describe the feelings that lead you to faith of some kind?
3. How has the expression of your faith evolved over time?
4. What does it mean to live a life that affirms the resurrection?
5. Where/how is the Holy Spirit active?